

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Technical Branch

DATE: 21 May 1954

FROM : [REDACTED] A

SUBJECT: Conference with [REDACTED] Cleared for Secret Contact.

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1. As an acquaintance [REDACTED] (where he studied and lectured), I made an appointment to meet him at the American Psychiatric Association's registration desk at their Convention headquarters, St. Louis, Missouri.

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2. At an open house held for APA members interested in electroencephalography, I had visited [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] which seemed too insecure for conference. This was held from 12:00 to 12:40 PM, 6 May 1954, on the then unused balcony of the lobby of the auditorium theater in use for convention meetings: security briefing, identifying the Agency inquiring.

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H-B/3

3. [REDACTED] appeared to be understanding of security, interested in the questions and cooperative. He has conducted EEG and interrupted light research for the [REDACTED] and is working on similar present and future contracts; all of which are Unclassified. He offered to send reprints to my residence address, five of which have now come and been added to the office files on EEG.

4. He knew no present means of producing confusion, or convulsion with unconsciousness, in every subject by means of interrupted light alone (it is well known that some subjects are that sensitive). He has experimentally endured various intensities and frequencies for three hours continuously without ill effects.

5. He believed that any subject could be convulsed by flicker, provided he were first sensitized by metrazol or an equivalent given intravenously. Different frequencies have to be tried, running through a range of say 13 to 16 flashes per second; intensity, about 100 foot-candles. Most subjects seem most sensitive to 16 flashes per second; a few, to 9. Forty seconds exposure often suffice; a few minutes at most.

6. Instead of metrazol, he routinely uses Azazol (Boots Pharmaceutical, New York) which is stronger.

H-B/6

7. By mouth, Isoniazid has been used by [REDACTED] This is less positive a sensitizer; larger doses--to sensitize a higher percent of subjects--are nauseating.

Not known, whether this or another nauseating sensitizing drug could be safely combined with an anti-emetic drug, so as to make it capable of sensitizing more subjects.

8. He did not know whether enough of a volatile amphetamine or other drug could be given by inhalation, to sensitize a majority of subjects to flicker-convulsion (or confusion).

9. If the subject were to be surrounded by a wall of a plastic substance like Lucite, a strong enough light behind this would be effective through it, regardless of the subject's direction of gaze (closed eyelids do not protect).

10. He had no experience of any anti-convulsive drug peculiarly prophylactic against photogenic seizures. Numerous well-known anti-convulsants could be tried.

11. He thought that interrupted sound, being less effective than interrupted light, was hardly worth a trial. Combining sound with light seemed to him to add more complication than it offered gain--either toward making subject more sensitive, or making more subjects sensitive.

12. Smell, continuous or interrupted, seemed to have been far less experimented with; such experiments as the literature offered had been unpromising in his opinion.

C 13. [redacted]'s interest has seemed sufficient, equally with his status as an EEG authority, for me to offer the suggestion that the Agency consider his use as a consultant.

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